



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

JP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 10/760,412  | 01/21/2004  | Clive S. Lu          | LU-016               | 1205             |
| 21884   | 7590        | 01/25/2005           | EXAMINER             |                  |
| WELSH & FLAXMAN LLC<br>2450 CRYSTAL DRIVE<br>SUITE 112<br>ARLINGTON, VA 22202 |             |                      | BLAU, STEPHEN LUTHER |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT             | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 3711                 |                  |

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

87

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/760,412

Applicant(s)

LU, CLIVE S.

Examiner

Stephen L. Blau

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/21/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-5 and 14-17, drawn to a grip, classified in class 473, subclass 300.
  - II. Claims 6-13, drawn to a method of forming a grip, classified in class 264, subclass 482.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of a grip and a method of making a grip are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case a grip as claimed can be made by another process as placing a design between layers of transparent material.
3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Howard N. Flaxman (Reg. No. 34,595) on 18 January 2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of a grip, claims 1-5 and 14-17. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 6-13 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Novak in view of 2002-52480 and Erokhin.

Novak discloses a grip for a golf club (Title) having a transparent [0007] polymeric [0020] body (30) having an inner surface and an outer surface (Fig. 4), a grip being substantially cylindrical in the form of the bore [0019], and a design in the form of an insert (Figs. 1,5) which can be seen through the transparent body (Fig. 1) for printing, design, color and emblem purposes [0022].

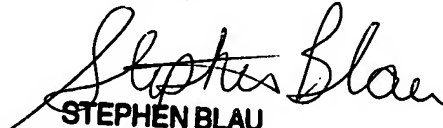
Art Unit: 3711

Novak lacks a three dimensional design formed within a transparent body and between the inner surface and the outer surface of the body. 2002-5480 discloses a grip having a design pattern formed within a transparent body and being three dimensional (Figs. 1,3, Title DERWENT). Erokhin discloses creating laser-induced images (title) within three-dimension (Col. 3, Lns. 7-10) transparent polymer material (Col. 5, Lns. 31-38) in order to provide decoration (Col. 1, Lns. 35-36). In view of the patent of 2002-52480 and Erokin it would have been obvious to modify the grip of Novak to have a three dimensional design formed within a body and between the inner surface and the outer surface of a body in order to provide a three dimensional design or emblem for indication and decorative purposes visually pleasing to a golfer.

### ***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Blau whose telephone number is (571) 272-4406. The examiner is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. If the examiner is unavailable you can contact his supervisor Greg Vidovich whose telephone number is (571) 272-4415. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858. (TC 3700 Official Fax 703-872-9306)

slb/ 22 January 2005

  
**STEPHEN BLAU**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**